(*f*).—Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(*1*).—*Extraction of Fodder and* (*2*).—*Grazing.*

138. Under this head it may be appropriate to say something on the subject of fodder supplied to the famine-affected districts.

139. In accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 9158, dated 18th November 1896, arrangements for the cutting of grass were made early in December 1896, and a large quantity of grass was collected by departmental agency in the Northern and Southern Divisions of Kánara, and in Belgaum and Dhárwár. Hay-presses were set up in convenient places near the Southern Mahrátta Railway stations, and the grass collected was pressed into bales and despatched to Bijápur and other famine-affected districts, under the orders of the Conservator of Forests, on special duty. The expenditure incurred by the Divisional Officers in connection with these operations, was defrayed from famine-funds placed at their disposal, and separate accounts were rendered by them direct to the officer above mentioned.

(*3*).—*Miscellaneous Produce.*

140. There is nothing new to record under this head, except that Cassia bark was extracted departmentally in the Bágalkot and Hungund tálukas, so as to provide work for the famine-stricken people of the Bijápur District.

141. About 1,292 men, women and children were engaged in collecting the bark, the wages paid to them being in proportion to the quantity collected and brought into depôts, calculated at Rs. 8 per *khandi* of 480 lbs. Men and women were able to earn about 2½ to 3 annas each per diem, and the children about 1½ annas. A quantity of 471 *khandis* was collected at a cost of Rs. 4,155, and of this, 342 *khandis* were sold during the year for Rs. 3,861.

CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

NORTHERN, SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DIVISIONS OF KA'NARA.

142. The large teak exploited yielded 346,472 cubic feet against 352,817 cubic feet in 1895-96, and small teak such as poles, rafters, &c., aggregated 49,442 cubic feet against 55,360.

143. The large junglewood removed fell from 361,138 cubic feet in 1895-96 to 305,796 in 1896-97, but small junglewood rose from 100,575 cubic feet to 111,355. The number of *Jámba* (*Xylia dolabriformis*) sleepers prepared for the Southern Mahrátta and Bombay Baroda and Central India Railways was 88,187 against 26,337 of 1895-96.

144. The yield of large blackwood rose from 16,556 cubic feet in 1895-96 to 42,944 in 1896-97, and of small blackwood amounted to 639 cubic feet.

145. In the yield of teak, there is a decrease of 40,129 cubic feet in Northern Kánara, and this is mainly due to the complete failure of the contractor who undertook to supply girdled wood from the Gund forests to the Kódibág depôt. The Haliyál contractors also were very dilatory and did not bring in the full quantities agreed upon. The principal reason for the failure in the former case was, that owing to the early cessation of rains, there was a scarcity of water in the *Kálinadi* river and no timber could be floated down to the Kódibág depôt in consequence.

146. In consequence of the introduction of the Supa Working-Plan in the Northern Division of Kánara, large blackwood rose from 9,962 to 36,529 cubic feet in 1896-97, and junglewood fell from 70,412 cubic feet to 37,571 cubic feet. The plan provides for the systematic exploitation of teak and blackwood only; hence the labour hitherto devoted to junglewood has now been transferred to these two kinds. The number of *Jámba* sleepers, however, increased from 10,564 in 1895-96 to 29,410 in 1896-97.

147. In the Southern Division of Kánara, large teak increased from 114,593 to 124,298 cubic feet, and would have been greatly in excess of the increased quantity, but for the failure of the contractor referred to in para. 145 above to bring in to the Kódibág depôt girdled wood from the Waderookly, Shelébail, &c., forests, for the same reason as noted in that para. There was also an increase of 6,486 cubic feet in small junglewood and this was mainly due

to the outturn of a larger number of sleepers than in the previous year—53,234 against 15,817 —to meet an increased demand for them by the Southern Mahrátta Railway Company.

148. Of the 53,234 sleepers prepared, 5,557 were cut up by the new saw machinery, from the 9th of April when the mills first commenced work, to the 30th of June 1897, at a cost of Rs. 1,084-8-0 (made up of Rs. 128-8-0, Rs. 788-8-0 and Rs. 167-8-0, on account of salaries, wages and stores for working, respectively), the cost per sleeper being 3·12 annas.

149. The actual expenditure for the first three months, however, does not appear to be a fair basis to work upon, since it includes the salaries of the foreman and the engine-driver for February and March 1897, during which period they were employed in connection with the machinery which had arrived and in erecting the shed and laying out foundation. Moreover, the stores purchased, were intended to meet the requirements of two more months; and the outturn of sleepers during the first two months was very small, as one of the driving belts received from the India Office was continually breaking and the work had to be suspended at intervals. The cost per sleeper would have been still less but for these facts.

150. An estimate based on actual saw mill expenditure and on rates at which contractors are paid for the supply of *Jámba* logs to the mills and for carting sleepers to the Railway station, shows that mill-sawn sleepers delivered to the Southern Mahrátta Railway, cost 13·5 annas each as against 15·5 annas paid to contractors for preparing and delivering hand-sawn sleepers. The annual outturn of sleepers is estimated at 36,000, and the saving at 2 annas per sleeper as above described, will, therefore, amount to Rs. 4,500 per annum.

151. In the Western Division of Kánara, there was an increase (14,486 cubic feet against 8,720) in the quantity of teak removed for export, owing to the strict enforcement of the terms of agreements, according to which contractors were bound to purchase and remove the quantities agreed upon within contract periods.

152. There was, however, a decrease in the number of bamboo stems extracted, which was 2,791,166 against 3,782,196 of 1895-96, and this is attributed to famine, cholera, plague and the consequent slackness in trade generally. Owing to a poor crop, the collection of myrabollams also decreased from 3,064 in 1895-96, to 2,817 *khandis* in 1896-97.

153. The firewood exploited, decreased from 3,525,914 cubic feet to 2,495,123 cubic feet. The decrease occurs chiefly in Northern Kánara, and is due to the supply of fuel to the Southern Mahrátta Railway Company, having been discontinued: the quantity supplied from that Division to the Railway in 1895-96 amounted to 1,948,846 cubic feet.

Belgaum.

154. The yield of large teak fell from 14,461 in 1895-96, to 6,594 cubic feet in 1896-97; but that of blackwood and junglewood rose from 1,349 and 1,504, to 1,445 and 2,419 cubic feet, respectively.

155. The yield of small teak, blackwood and junglewood (poles, &c.) aggregated 68,363, 3,983 and 74,758 cubic feet against 57,870, 4,327 and 77,270 cubic feet, respectively.

156. The decrease in the yield of large teak is owing to there being no such trees reserved in *Málki* numbers for sale during the year under report. The increase in small teak is due to an increased outturn of poles exploited from the local firewood cuttings.

157. The number of *Jámba* sleepers supplied to the Southern Mahrátta Railway Company was 24,641, against 20,762. 2,072 *Matti* sleepers were also supplied during 1896-97.

158. 1,318 sandalwood trees were removed from occupied lands against 12,020. The large decrease is owing to most of the sandalwood trees in such lands having been disposed of in previous years.

159. The yield of firewood was 3,337,847 cubic feet against 2,894,741, the running wood for the Railway increased from 2,217,960 cubic feet to 2,618,180; and lighting wood from 15,794 to 44,993 cubic feet. The increased supply in Belgaum was caused by a corresponding reduction in Northern Kánara, where no cuttings were carried out during the year.

160. The yield of myrobollams was 3,040 against 3,318 *khandis* in 1895-96.

161. Owing to the general slackness in trade, the number of bamboo stems extracted decreased from 511,192 to 406,575.

162. The outturn of *Shigekái* (pods of *Acacia concinna*) was 50 *khandis* against 91, and the decrease is attributed to the bad season.

Dha'rwa'r.

163. The yield of teak rose from 48,675 to 69,311 cubic feet; but that of junglewood and blackwood rafters and *Jaráyet*-pieces fell from 10,648 to 9,725 cubic feet. The quantity of firewood exploited rose from 233,507 to 298,915 cubic feet; but the demand for bamboos fell, the number of stems removed being 238,055 against 348,908 in the preceding year.

164. The cause of increase in the yield of teak is ascribed to the fact that the depôts were fully restocked during the year, there being no large balances at the beginning of the year; and the same reason is attributed also to the larger quantity of firewood exploited.

165. 1,712 sandalwood trees were removed against 1,296.

Bija'pur.

166. To provide work for the famine-stricken people, Cassia bark was collected during the year by departmental agency, and the outturn aggregated 471 *khandis*.

167. The junglewood poles and pieces removed, decreased from 7,498 to 6,885 cubic feet. The quantity of firewood extracted also decreased from 321,808 to 147,122 cubic feet. The decrease is due to famine and the consequent slackness in trade generally.

Kola'ba.

168. The yield of teak is reported to have decreased, from 490,587 to 411,922 cubic feet, and the quantity of firewood from 1,536,381 to 1,100,625 cubic feet.

169. The falling-off in the yield of timber is partly due to a smaller prescription for cuttings having been made in accordance with a revised working-plan which alters the period of revolution to 40 years instead of 30 as laid down in the original plan, and partly to the fact that the *coupes* in the Khálápur Range, were very unevenly stocked, though the areas were nearly equal to those previously worked.

170. As regards the decrease in the outturn of firewood the Divisional Forest Officer reports that the quantity in cubic feet is arrived at from several sources arising from the different means of exploitation—systematic and irregular—and that the figures are rough approximation obtained by an eye-estimate, and consequently the figures vary from time to time. The reason why an eye-estimate has to be made is that trees in *coupes* are, in all cases, sold standing to contractors for export.

Ratna'giri.

171. The yield of teak and junglewood rafters, pieces, &c., removed, was 14,072 cubic feet; and the quantity of firewood exploited, amounted to 13,592 cubic feet. No comparison with yield of previous years is given as no mention of this division has been made in former reports.

172. The following quantities of grass are reported to have been collected pressed into bales and despatched to the famine-affected districts under the orders of the Conservator of Forests on special duty :—

	Lbs.
Northern Division, Kánara...	130,577
Southern do.	421,450
Belgaum	260,692
Dhárwár	1,400,782
Total ...	2,213,501

173. The information required by Government Resolution No. 2872, dated 12th April 1897, is given in Apppendix 57A.

174. As required by Government Resolution No. 5792 of 3rd August 1897, the information regarding the value of materials such as stones, kankar, &c., removed free of charge from the State forests by Public Departments is given in the following table :—

Division.	Quantity.	Value.	Remarks.
	C. ft.	Rs.	
Northern Division, Kánara ...	848,388	2,436	
Southern Division, Kánara ...	646,789	2,939	
Western Division, Kánara ...	579,917	1,450	
Belgaum Division	27,170	55	
Dhárwár Division	53,881	109	
Bijápur Division	42,978	87	
Kolába Division	3,444	47	
Ratnágiri Division	.....	...	
Total ...	2,202,567	7,123	

CHAPTER IV.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

175. The financial results of the year compare, as follows, with those of the previous year :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.			Surplus.
		A.—Conservancy and Works.	B.—Establishments.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1895-96	14,98,084	5,38,306	3,16,047	8,54,353	6,43,731
1896-97	14,40,798	5,69,459	3,07,098	8,76,557	5,64,241
Increase ...	...	31,153	.....	22,204	.....
Decrease ...	57,286	.....	8,949	.....	79,490

176. The year was a bad one by reason of two main causes—the plague in Bombay and the famine in the Southern Marátha Country,—both of which, and more particularly the latter, greatly diminished the demand for wood all over the Circle.

177. The outstandings of revenue at the end of the two years are as under :—

1895-96	... Rs. 2,82,918
1896-97	... ,, 1,68,056

178. The comparison is largely in favour of the year under report. Decreases in outstandings occur in all divisions except Kolába and Western Division of Kánara, where the export-trade in timber and fuel was greatly hampered by the plague prevailing in Bombay and, consequently, the contractors were unable to clear off the large outstandings due by them to the Department.